reduces the cost and helps the students for further development. Free stands for Freedom to Copy, Share and Development of Software. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry has any plans to incorporate a pre-condition for the usage of free software to reduce the cost and help the students to develop their skills in software.

SHRI KAPIL S1BAL : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is not possible for us to start preparing the software on our own. Software has to be outsourced and ultimately through ICT we must have quality software. If we were to outsource quality software, then, of course, payment will have to be made. The free software must match with the quality that should be imparted in these schools, and it is not a significant cost at all. It is for the Governments to use the software as they deem fit. Now, if the State Government have the free software and they want to use it, we don't come in the way.

Navodaya scheme for rural students

*328. DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY :

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government has recently urged the State Governments to endorse the 'Navodaya Scheme' at the earliest to enable rural students to have access to quality higher education;

(b) if so, the response of State Governments in this regard,

(c) whether the education imparting system in the 'Navodaya Scheme' has been modernised so that the rural students can compete with the urban students; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance provided to State Governments under 'Navodaya Scheme' during the last two years and the results achieved under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) All the States/UTs except Tamil Nadu, have accepted the Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme.

(c) Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme envisages establishment of a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV) in each district of the country for providing good quality modern education to talented children predominantly from rural areas.

(d) Navodaya Vidyalaya Scheme is a central sector scheme, and assistance is not provided to the States. At present, there are 565 functional JNVs in the country with 2.07 lakh students as on 30.09.2009.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, this is a scheme started when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... This Navodaya School Scheme, as the Minister has endorsed himself, is a very good scheme. It was started with one school in every district with a purpose to enable the State Governments to copy the school programme and convert their schools into this kind to provide modern education. What the are steps taken by the Government of India to help the State Governments to copy their schools and covert their schools into Navodaya schools scheme to provide modern education in rural areas?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, this is a question relating to Navodaya School. It is not a question relating to what steps the Government is going to take to help schools outside the Navodaya School system.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, I just mentioned to the Minister the purpose for which these Navodaya Schools were started and the Minister says that it is not related to question. Anyway. In Navodaya Schools, which are now being applauded by the Minister, and in Kendriya Vidyalayas teachers are not getting pension. Will he consider the request of lakhs of teachers for pension?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Sir, I would request the hon. Member to bring the issue before me and I will certainly look into it. But I might just mention to the hon. Member in the context of what he had asked that we are, for example, planning to set up six thousand model schools which will be in every district and every taluka in this country. Sir, 3,500 of those model schools will be set up by the Government itself, and, these will be better than the Navodaya Vidyalayas, and, these will be in addition to the Navodaya Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas, and, 2,500 of them will be set up through public-private partnership. We are going to do that.

DR. N. JANARDHANA REDDY: We will welcome that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Booking of tickets on fake names

*321. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether she is aware of operation of touts who reportedly buy a large number of tickets in fictitious names and sell them at a premium, allegedly in connivance with some departmental staff;

(b) if so, the number of such cases apprehended by her Ministry during the last three years; and

(c) the action being taken to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Due to gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation, some cases of purchasing tickets by touts